

second end having a second diameter wherein the second diameter is larger than the first diameter; and

- said implant body comprising first and second load bearing surfaces extending between the first and second ends of the implant body and being spaced apart by a central support member, the central support member having a width narrower than a width of the first and second load bearing surfaces, wherein the width of the first and second load bearing surfaces extends between the first and second ends of the implant body, wherein the central support member is coextensive with a midline of the implant body extending along the longitudinal axis, wherein said body is generally "I" shaped in cross-section.

40. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces taper toward one another from said second end to said first end.

49. (Amended) An implant for intervertebral fusion between opposing vertebrae, said implant comprising:

- an implant body having a first end and a second end, said body having first and second load bearing surfaces extending along a longitudinal axis of the body from the first end to the second end, the first and second load bearing surfaces having a width extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, said first and second load bearing surfaces having a midline extending along the longitudinal axis, said first and second load bearing surfaces being spaced apart by a first height at the first end and a second height at the second end, wherein the first height is less than the second height; and

- said implant body comprising a central support member connecting the first and second load bearing surfaces along their midlines, the central

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support member having a width narrower than the width of the first and second load bearing surfaces.

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53. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces form open channels on each side of the central support member, extending from the first end of the implant body to the second end of the implant body.

54. (New) The implant of claim 49, wherein, said first and second load bearing surfaces include portions of a helical thread pattern.

55. (New) The implant of claim 54, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces are threaded from the first end of the body to the second end of the body.

56. (New) An implant for intervertebral fusion between opposing vertebrae, said implant comprising:

- an implant body having a first end and a second end spaced along a longitudinal axis of the body, said first end having a first diameter and said second end having a second diameter wherein the second diameter is larger than the first diameter; and
- said implant body comprising first and second load bearing surfaces extending between the first and second ends of the implant body and being spaced apart by a central support member, wherein the first and second load bearing surfaces taper toward one another from said second end to said first end;
- said central support member having a width narrower than a width of the first and second load bearing surfaces, wherein the width of the first and second load bearing surfaces extends between the first and second ends of the implant body;
- said central support member being coextensive with a midline of the implant body extending along the longitudinal axis, wherein said body is generally "I" shaped in cross-section, wherein said first and second load

bearing surfaces form open channels on each side of the central support member, extending from the first end of the implant body to the second end of the implant body.

57. (New) An implant for intervertebral fusion between opposing vertebrae, said implant comprising:
- an implant body having a first end and a second end, said body having first and second load bearing surfaces extending along a longitudinal axis of the body from the first end to the second end, the first and second load bearing surfaces having a width extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, said first and second load bearing surfaces having a midline extending along the longitudinal axis, said first and second load bearing surfaces being spaced apart by a first height at the first end and a second height at the second end, wherein the first height is less than the second height, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces taper toward one another from said second end to said first end, said first and second load bearing surfaces including portions of a helical thread pattern;
 - said implant body comprising a central support member connecting the first and second load bearing surfaces along their midlines, the central support member having a width narrower than the width of the first and second load bearing surfaces; and
 - said first and second load bearing surfaces forming open channels on each side of the central support member, extending from the first end of the implant body to the second end of the implant body.

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